

who helped make this bill a reality and the many responsible companies that are taking steps to help ensure their sourcing of minerals does not contribute to the horrific violence in mineral-rich Congo. The Congolese people have suffered entirely too much, and I sincerely believe that these efforts will be part of the long-term solution to the quest for stability and peace in their country.

RECESS APPOINTMENT DECISION

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I wish to applaud the Supreme Court's unanimous decision that the President's January 4, 2012 appointments to the NLRB were unconstitutional. As you know, I was the Ranking Member on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in 2012, and when these appointments were made I expressed my concern with the administration's contempt for small businesses and the Senate's confirmation and vetting process. I was also proud to cosign an amicus brief led by our Republican leader against these proforma session appointments.

The Appointments Clause of our Constitution provides that "the President shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law." Today the Supreme Court validated the Senate's important advice and consent role in the confirmation process.

These unconstitutional appointments are just one example of the executive branch overreach that Americans face every day under this administration. In his State of the Union address, President Obama said that since he is unable to rely on Congress to rubber stamp his agenda, he intends to use executive orders to avoid the legislative process altogether. This is certainly not a new practice for him: President Obama has issued more executive orders and economically significant rules and regulations than President George W. Bush, Clinton or Reagan. I hope today's Supreme Court decision will serve as the impetus that brings my colleagues together to say enough is enough.

One issue we need to stand up to the administration about is its war on coal. Earlier this month the EPA issued new regulations that try to force a backdoor cap and tax proposal on Americans that Congress has rejected. Senators on both sides of the aisle realized a couple of years ago that coal is one of our best sources of energy and that cap and tax was an extremely expensive and bad idea. I urge those Senators to come together again and make the President withdraw his cap and tax regulation.

Another issue we need to stand up to the President about is his attempt to

control all our water. In March the EPA proposed a new rule that could allow the administration to regulate all bodies of water, no matter how small, and regardless of whether the water is on public or private property. We have already experienced that attempt at control in Wyoming, where the EPA tried to fine an individual up to \$75,000 per day for the pond he built on his private property. Mark Twain once said, "in the West, whiskey is for drinking. Water is for fighting over." I urge my Western State colleagues to come together and make the President withdraw his waters of the United States regulation.

We do not have to wait for the Supreme Court to act on these examples of executive overreach. The Congressional Review Act provides an expedited procedure for us to consider a resolution of disapproval of the President's rules. Under the CRA, before any final rule can become effective it must be filed with each House of Congress and GAO. Within 60 days after Congress receives an agency's rule, we can introduce a resolution of disapproval to nullify the rule. The CRA also guarantees us a vote because 30 of us can sign a petition to discharge the resolution from Committee, and the motion to proceed to the resolution is not subject to amendment, motion to postpone, or motion to proceed to other business. I hope I have 29 colleagues willing to join me in signing petitions to discharge resolutions of disapproval regarding both of these rules.

There are also areas where the administration is not acting when it should, and I hope my colleagues will push the administration to spend its time taking actions that help, not hurt, America.

Officials from the IRS, Treasury Department, and White House did not tell Congress when they realized IRS emails had been lost that were relevant to bipartisan committee investigations. The administration knew about those emails for at least 2 months before the Senate Finance Committee was informed. I urge my colleagues to come together and insist on full disclosure from the administration regarding allegations of political targeting by the IRS. A Finance Committee hearing about the lost IRS emails would be an excellent step in getting to the bottom of this issue.

The administration has not approved the Keystone Pipeline application that has been pending for more than 5 years. The State Department has done five reviews of the project and determined that the pipeline would cause no significant environmental impacts. The pipeline would create about 42,000 jobs. Our Energy Committee has passed legislation to build the pipeline. A bipartisan group of at least 55 Senators say they want to build the pipeline. I urge that group to come together and insist the President let the pipeline go forward.

These are not the only areas where the President has acted when he should

not have, and has not acted when he should have. But they are important to Wyoming and America, and I urge my colleagues to stand up to the executive branch now rather than waiting for the Supreme Court on another issue.

STOPPING SCHOOL TRAGEDIES

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, every morning around our Nation, as young people walk into their schools, they are reminded of our Nation's epidemic of gun violence. The sights and sounds of an American school day—lockers closing, the morning bell—now compete with more disconcerting scenes: metal detectors, security cameras, and armed guards. Students interrupt math and science lessons to participate in active shooter drills. Parents everywhere ask the same, legitimate question: Are my kids safe in their school?

They are right to be concerned. On June 10, a 15-year-old boy in Oregon brought a military-style assault rifle, nine magazines of ammunition, a handgun, and a knife to his high school. There, he murdered a classmate and exchanged gunfire with police before taking his own life. Several reports have counted this as the 74th instance of a shot being fired inside or near an American school since the tragic events of December 14, 2012, when a mentally deranged individual stole the lives of 27 people, 20 of them children, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. The only number of such instances that America should accept is zero.

It does not have to continue this way. The Newtown shooting, along with so many other horrific instances, created overwhelming consensus among Americans that Congress needs to act to stop this senseless gun violence. Polls now routinely show that more than 90 percent of the American public supports the passage of legislation to require simple background checks to be conducted on all gun sales. Recent reports have shown that 95 percent of internal medicine physicians in our Nation agree. And 76 percent of these physicians believe that gun safety legislation would "help to reduce the risk for gun-related injuries or death." Organizations outside of government have engaged in important work to reduce gun violence in our society, including a recent initiative spearheaded by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence that encourages parents to keep their kids safe by asking a simple question: "Is there an unlocked gun where my child plays?"

But as long as Congress continues to ignore the American people, the fundamental problems remain. Today, in places all around our Nation, a convicted felon, a domestic abuser, a dangerously mentally ill individual, or a confused and angry teenager can still buy a firearm from an unlicensed dealer without undergoing any sort of background check. And at almost any time, a mentally ill young person can